

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

*The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.*



**CONTACT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**(916) 657-7202**  
**(916) 657-8639 - FAX**

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**NEW CHP K-9 GRADUATES READY TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF TERRORISM**

WEST SACRAMENTO – The California Highway Patrol (CHP) gymnasium was the site of a graduation ceremony today. But instead of cadets marching in close order drill, or proud parents taking pictures, six dogs earned badges, and “puppy raisers” in the audience were full of pride.

“Collectively this class represents the second group of Explosive Detection Canines to graduate from the Department’s Canine Training Program,” CHP Deputy Commissioner Joe Farrow said.

Since its inception in 1986, the CHP program has evolved from a single team to the second largest program in the State. Currently the CHP’s canine corps features 50 teams, 19 of which are dedicated to the detection of explosives.

Faced with the difficult challenge of confronting the threat of terrorism in an era of limited resources, the CHP has explored new and innovative ways to balance the need for effective homeland security with the obligation to practice fiscal responsibility.

Deputy Commissioner Farrow emphasized the value of obtaining candidates for the Canine Training Program and the “in house” instruction on the CHP Academy campus. “This training program is expected to save the people of California over \$300,000 by the end of this year alone, with the promise of continued savings in future years,” he said.

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Four of the dogs were donated to the CHP by Guide Dogs for the Blind. A representative of that organization, Mr. Brent Ruppel, was present at the ceremony along with a private individual, Mr. Tom Martin, who donated another animal. The sixth “graduate” was rescued from the Yuba-Sutter Animal Shelter.

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